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FOLLOWING REPEAT NEW DELHI 13085 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
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QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 13085

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TAGS: CASC, PINS, PINT, SREF, CVIS, IN, NP

SUBJ: ANAND MARG: A QUESTIONABLE SECT

REF: A. NEW DELHI 5062 (NOTAL) (1974)

B. KATHMANDU 322 (NOTAL)

C. MANILA 12900

SUMMARY: THE ANAND MARG'S REPUTATION IN INDIA CONTRASTS
WITH ITS BENIGN IMAGE ABROAD. THE GOI OUTLAWED THE
SECT SOON AFTER THE EMERGENCY, ALONG WITH EXTREME RIGHT
WING HINDU AND MUSLIM ORGANIZATIONS. WE SUGGEST DEPART-
MENT CAREFULLY WEIGH THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION IN THIS
CABLE, SOME OF WHICH IS INCLUDED IN OUR 1974 REVIEW
(REFTEL A), AS IT BEARS ON THE ELIGIBILITY OF MARG CLERGY
AND MEMBERS FOR RELIGIOUS OR POLITICAL ASYLUM IN THE U.S.

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END SUMMARY.

1. THE MARG IS A HINDU SECT THAT ADVOCATEY INDIVIDUAL SPIRITUAL SELF-GENERATION AND THE SPIRITUAL PURIFICATION OF SOCIETY. IT OPPOSES CAPITALIST AND MARXIST MATERIALISM, AS WELL AS THE INJUSTICES OF THE HINDU CASTE SYSTEM. ANAND MURTI OR SARKAR IS THE "GURU," THE FOUNDER-LEADER OF THE MARG. HE PS REGARDED BY HIS FOLLOWERS AS A REINCARNATION OF GOD. MARGIS WORSHIP HIM AS ONE WHO HAS COME TO EARTH TO GUIDE HUMAN BEINGS TOWARD -INTEL-LECTUAL MORALITY." DEVOTION TO SARKAR AMONG HIS FOLLOWERS IS INTENSE AND OFTEN FANATICAL. HE IS CREDITED WITH SUPERHUMAN POWERS. AT LEAST THREE MARGIS HAVE IMMOLATED THEMSELVES TO PROTEST HIS IMPRISONMENT OR TREATMENT IN PRISON.

2. THE ANAND MARG CALLS FOR THE CREATION OF A WORLD GOVERNMENT GUIDED BY MARG PRINCIPLES OF "INTELLECTUAL MORALITY." THE POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY OF THE TRANSFORMATION IS TERMED THE PROGRESSIVE UTILIZATION THEORY OR PROUT WHICH IS ESPOUSED BY THE MARG'S POLITICAL PARTY IN INDIA, THE PROUTIST BLOC. PROUTIST BLOC CANDIDATES UNSUCCESSFULLY CONTESTED A NUMBER OF SEATS IN THE 1967 AND 1971 GENERAL ELECTIONS. ALMOST ALL LOST THEIR DEPOSILS.

3. MANY INDIANS FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE ENTERTAIN SUSPICIONS ABOUT THE MARG'S NATURE AND OBJECTIVES. THE SUSPICIONS ARISE FROM THE MARG'S PROSELYTIZING; MARG RITUALS INVOLVING THE USE OF SKULLS, HUMAN BLOOD AND DAGGERS; THE MARG'S REPUTATION FOR VIOLENCE, PARTICULARLY WHEN IT IS SEEN AS SERVING THE INTEREST OF SARKAR; AND THE GOI'S LIST OF CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST SARKAR AND SOME OF HIS FOLLOWERS. THE PRIME MINISTER OCCASIONALLY ASSERTS THAT DOCUMENTED PROOF EXISTS THAT THE MARG HAD PLANS TO ASSASSINATE HER.

4. FOLLOWING A SERIES OF POLICE RAIDS ON MARGI OFFICES AND HOMES, IN WHICH WEAPONS AS WELL AS DOCUMENTS WERE ALLEGEDLY SEIZED, THE GOI ARRESTED SARKAR IN 1971 FOR THE MURDER OF TOP MARGIS WHO DEFECTED FROM THE ORGANIZATION. SARKARS WIFE HAS SINCE PUBLICLY DENOUNCED HIM. ONE SENIOR MARGI LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE EXECUTIONS ON SARKAR'S INSTRUCTIONS IS TESTIFYING AGAINST HIM AS A STATE WITNESS. (TESTIMONY POUCHED TO NEA/INS). SARKAR IS NOW CHARGED WITH ORDERING THE EXECUTION OF SEVEN OF HIS DISCIPLES. LEGAL DELAYS, INCLUDING APPEALS BY HIS LAWYERS ON PROCEDURAL MATTERS, HAVE DELAYED HIS TRIAL. THE GOI ARRESTED A MARGI IN 1974 FOR ATTEMPTING TO ASSASSINATE THE SENIOR MARGI DEFECTOR TESTIFYING AGAINST

SARKAR. THE GOI HAS ARRESTED AT LEAST THREE MARGIS FOR THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF CHIEF JUSTICE RAY EARLIER THIS YEAR, AND HAS PUBLICLY HINTED THAT IT HAS EVIDENCE CONNECTING THE MARG WITH THE CONTROVERSIAL ESSASSINATION OF RAILWAY MINISTER L.N. MISHRA IN JANUARY.

5. WE BELIEVE THE DEPARTMENT WILL WISH TO WEIGH CAREFULLY THE REPUTATION OF THE ANAND MARG IN INDIA BEFORE COMING TO ANY CONCLUSIONS REGARDING THE ELIGIBILITY OF ITS CLERGY FOR ENTRY IN THE UNITED STATES. WE ALSO BELIEVE THE CHARACTER OF THE ORGANIZATION HAS A BEARING ON THE CLAIMS ITS MEMBERS MAY MAKE AS POLITICAL PERSECUTEES.

6. WE ARE POUCHING COPIES OF REFTEL (A) TO HONG KONG, MANILA AND KATHMANDU.
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